

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 02974 01 OF 02 040558Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NRC-07 OES-06 DODE-00 PA-02
PRS-01 USIA-15 PM-04 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /110 W
-----040624Z 016508 /13

R 030834Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5848
INFO ERDA GERMANTOWN
ERDA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 2974

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, JA
SUBJECT: VISITS TO US OF TEPCO'S TANAKA AND JAEC'S INOUE

1. EMBOFFS MET WITH MR. NAOJIRO TANAKA, EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT, TOKYO ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY AND DR. GORO INOUE,
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, JAEC IN ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY JAPANESE REACTIONS
TO THEIR VISITS TO US. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS REPORT ON TANAKA
AND INOUE INTEVIEWS AND ON NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF VISIT
RESPECTIVELY.

2. THE TANAKA TEAM ON RETURN TRIP FROM NEGOTIATIONS WITH
BNFL & COGEMA MET WITH TOP OFFICIALS OF ERDA, ACDA, STATE, ACDA,
FEA, NRC, EEI, ENERGY POLICY & PLANNING OFFICE, NTERNATIONAL
ENERGY ASSOCIATES AND WASHINGTON LEGAL FIRM. TANAKA STATED THAT
HE EITERATED TO US HOSTS JAPANESE INCREASINGLY HEAVY DEPENDENCE
ON NUCLEAR FOR ELECTRICAL ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AND FACT THAT
JAPANESE NUCLEAR CAPABILITY WAS FOSTERED BY US AND MAJOR PORTION
IS CURRENTLY UNDER LICENSE TO US FIRMS. CLEAR INFERENCE BEING
THAT US SHOULD FACTOR INFLUENCE US POLICY ALTERNATIVES UPON
JAPAN INTO FORMULATION US POLICY. TANAKA INDICATED STRONG
JAPANESE UTILITY CONSENSUS TO FIRM UP COMPLETE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 02974 01 OF 02 040558Z

CAPABILITY IN JAPAN AND CONVICTION THAT REPROCESSNG (AS WELL
AS ENRICHMENT) EXPECTED TO BE TRANSFERRED TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY
IN TIME. STORAGE OF SPENT FUEL FOR PROLONGED PERIOD NOT
CONSIDERED FEASIBLE DIRECTION FOR JAPAN BOTH BECAUSE OF SPACE
REQUIREMENTS AND RSOURCE CONSIDERATIONS. TANAKA INDICATED
THAT HE REQUESTED US TO ASSIST IN AUTHORIZING ARRANGEMENTS
WITH BNFL AND COGEMA TO REPROCES US ENRICHED SPENT FUEL.

HE INDICATED THAT NO US RESPONSE HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING. TANAKA, IN REFERENCE TO JAPAN'S PLANS FOR THE SECOND REPROCESSING PLANT (1500 MT CAPACITY), STATED THAT JAPAN WILL HAVE TO WORK WITH THE EUROPEANS (FRENCH) IF US UNWILLING. HE STATED THAT EEI ALSO PREFERRED TO BUILD REPROCESSING PLANTS OVER SPENT FUEL STORAGE PONDS.

3. TANAKA HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY EMBOFF PRIOR TO VISIT TO EFFECT THAT USG REPRESENTATIVES HIGHLY DISINCLINED TO MAKE COMMITMENT OR STATE POSITION PRIOR TO ESTABLISHMENT NEW USG ENERGY POLICY, BUT NEVERTHELESS TANAKA APPEARED TO HAVE REACTED NEGATIVELY TO RELUCTANCE US REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE DEFINITE STATEMENTS OR FORECASTS CONCERNING FUTURE US NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY. THIS ATTITUDE MAY HAVE CREATED IMPRESSION WITH CERTAIN NEWS MEDIA INTERVIEWERS THAT LIKELIHOOD IS THAT US WILL TAKE STRONG NEGATIVE POSITION ON REPROCESSING.

4. DR. INOUE HAD PRESS CONFERENCES IN WASHINGTON AS WELL AS TOKYO UPON HIS RETURN TO JAPAN. ESSENCE OF INOUE CONCERN IS THAT US APPEARS LIKELY TO TAKE POSITION ON BASIS OF US INTERNAL, TRANSIENT, SHORT SIGHED PRESSURES RATHER THAN ON BASIS OF THOUGHTFUL GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE. WHILE HE UNDERSTANDS BRAZIL AND PAKISTAN CONCERNS, HE BELIEVES US SHOULD HAVE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF JAPANESE AND EC SITUATIONS.

5. INOUE INDICATED THAT JAPAN IS NOT INTERESTED IN EXPORTING NUCLEAR TECHNOOGY BUT SIMPLY PROVIDING FOR OWN REQUIREMENTS. JAPAN CONVINCED NUCLEAR IS ONLY SOLUTION TO ITS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TOKYO 02974 01 OF 02 040558Z

ENERGY ITS ENERGY PROBLEMS AND BELIEVES REPROCESSING STEP ESSENTIAL TO REASONABLE UTILIZATION NUCLEAR RESOURCES. HE EXPRESSED AGAIN JAPAN'S COMPLETE AND TOTAL AGREEMENT WITH US NON-PROLIFERATION GOALS BUT COULD NOT AGREE WITH APPROACH WHICH POSTPONES COMPLETION REPROCESSING STEP. HE QUOTED PRESIDENT CARTER STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT NUCLEAR WOULD BE USED ONLY AS LAST RESORT IN US AND CONTRASTED IT WITH GOJ POSITION THAT NUCLEAR IS TOP PRIORITY ENERGY PROGRAM IN JAPAN.

6. IN REFERENCE TO RECENT COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS ON PU RECYCLE, INOUE STATED HIS LACKOF INTEREST IN WHETHE CONCLUSIONS WARRANTED THROWAWAY FUEL CYCLE OR PU RECYCLE ON BASIS THAT: 1) NO ONE COULD PREDICT COST OIL, COAL,GAS, URANIUM IN TEN YEARS AND 2) SCARCITY RESOURCES DICTATES NECESSITY TO RECYCLE REGARDLESS OF COST.

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 02974 02 OF 02 030933Z

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PRS-01 USIA-15 PM-04 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 TRSE-00
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 TOKYO 2974

7. INOUE RESTATED JAPAN WILLINGNESS TO USE TOKAI-MURA REPROCESSING PLANT AS EXPERIMENTAL SYSTEM FOR ESTABLISHMENT ACCOUNTABILITY PROCEDURES. HE RESTATED JAPAN WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN MULTINATIONAL OR REGIONAL REPROCESSING PLANT IF US INTERESTED. HE ALSO RESTATED JAPAN WILLINGNESS TO FOLLOW US LEAD AND DEPOSIT EXCESS PU WITH IAEA. ALL OF THESE OFFERS HOWEVER, ARE BASED ON US COOPERATION AND LEADERSHIP.

8. INOUE HAD ALSO BEEN BRIEFED BY EMBOFFS ON FACT THAT USG REPRESENTATIVES WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO EXPRESS POSITION OR FORECAST FUTURE ADMINISTRATION NUCLEAR POLICY. HOWEVER HE ALSO CAME AWAY WITH SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE FEELING ABOUT FUTURE US NUCLEAR DIRECTION AND URGED US TO CONSIDER GLOBAL EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY.

9. SUBSEQUENT TO HIS OWN PRESS CONFERENCES, INOUE MET WITH STA DIRECTOR-GENERAL UNO (WHO IS CONCURRENTLY JAEC CHAIRMAN) AND TOLD HIM THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD PROPOSED JAPAN'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIONS WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE ISSUE, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. IN WASHINGTON, INOUE HAD REACTED UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TOKYO 02974 02 OF 02 030933Z

TO THE PROPOSAL BY SAYING THAT JAPAN WOULD PARTICIPATE IF NECESSARY. UNO TOLD THE PRESS AFTER A CABINET MEETING ON

MARCH 1 THAT EVEN IF JAPAN WERE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED CONSULTATIONS, CARE WOULD BE TAKEN SO THAT JAPAN WOULD NOT BE PUT INTO A POSITION OF "STRANGLING ITSELF". THE NIHON KEIZAI, A LEADING ECONOMIC JOURNAL, GATHERED FROM INOUE'S REMARKS MADE AFTER HIS RETURN TO JAPAN THAT THE U.S. IS OF THE VIEW THAT VARIOUS COUNTRIES INCLUDING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NEED NOT HURRY WITH CONSTRUCTION OF REPROCESSING PLANTS SINCE THEIR ENERGY OBJECTIVES WILL BE MET IF U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES POSSESSING NUCLEAR FUEL ENRICHMENT CAPABILITY PLEDGE STABLE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM NECESSARY FOR PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.

10. THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN THIS MATTER--WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO THE PRESS--IS A NIHON KEIZAI REPORT OF MARCH 4 TO EFFECT THAT ENERGY POLICIES (INCLUDING NUCLEAR ENERGY) WOULD NOT BE INSCRIBED BY GOJ ON AGENDA FOR U.S.-JAPAN SUMMIT MEETING OF 3/21/22. THIS VIEW WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN STATED BY PRIME MINISTER, ON GROUNDS THAT U.S. POSITION IS TOO STIFF TO PERMIT BILATERAL DISCUSSION AND THAT THE NUCLEAR ISSUE WOULD BE BETTER ADDRESSED IN A MULTILATERAL FORUM SUCH AS THE LONDON SUPPLIERS

CONFERENCE. WHEN EMBASSY ASKED FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR ITS REACTION TO NEWS REPORT, WE WERE TOLD SIMPLY THAT WASHINGTON ALREADY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY GOJ THAT IT WISHED TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR PROBLEM AS PART OF SUMMIT TALKS. EMBOFF'S COMMENT THAT NIHON KEIZAI HAD APPEARED TO BE TOO LIBRAL IN INTERPRETING PM'S VIEWS WAS ACCEPTED BY MOFA OFFICIAL.

11. BY SEPTEL WE ARE REPORTING ON A MORE TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT IN REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL WHICH HAS JUST OCCURRED ALSO.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Type: TE
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